

Determining your Institution Accreditation Status For meeting NCLB Paraprofessional Qualifications

According to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, all new instructional paraprofessionals in Title I schools or targeted assistance programs must have

- Completed at least 60 semester hours of study at an accredited institution of higher education; or
 - Obtained an associate's (or higher) degree from an accredited institution; or
 - Met a rigorous standard of quality, demonstrated through a formal State or local academic assessment
- ❖ **Programs must be regionally accredited.** Degrees or credits from non-accredited programs and institutions cannot be accepted.
- ❖ **Only earned (semester or quarter) credits from regionally accredited programs may be counted.** Continuing education units and contact hours cannot be used for this purpose.
- ❖ **Only semester or quarter hours are acceptable. Quarter hours must be converted to semester hours.** One quarter hour equals two-thirds of a semester hour.

In order to determine if the institution meets South Carolina accreditation standards, check to see if the program is *regionally accredited* by one of the following organizations: (Note: If the program is located in South Carolina or in one of the southeastern states, check its accreditation status with the **Southern Association of Colleges and Schools [SACS]**).

Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA)

Middle States Commission on Higher Education

Jean Avnet Morse, Executive Director

3624 Market Street

Philadelphia, PA 19104

Phone: 215-662-5606

Fax: 215-662-5501

E-mail: jmorse@msache.org

Web: www.msache.org

Recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, April 2002

New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC-CIHE)

Commission on Institutions of Higher Education

Charles M. Cook, Director

209 Burlington Road

Bedford, MA 07130

Phone: 781-271-0022

Fax: 781-271-0950

E-mail: CIHE@neasc.org

Web: www.neasc.org

Recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, April 2002

New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC-CTCI)

Commission on Technical and Career Institutions

William C. Warren, Interim Director

209 Burlington Road

Bedford, MA 01730

Phone: 781-271-0022

Fax: 781-271-0950

E-mail: wwarren@neasc.org

Web: www.neasc.org

Recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, January 2001

North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA-HLC)

The Higher Learning Commission

Steven D. Crow, Executive Director

30 North LaSalle, Suite 2400

Chicago, IL 60602

Phone: 312-263-0456

Fax: 312-263-7462

E-mail: scrow@hlcommission.org

Web: www.ncahigherlearningcommission.org

Recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, January 2003

Northwest Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (NWA)

Commission on Colleges and Universities

Sandra E. Elman, Executive Director

8060 165th Avenue, NE, Suite 100

Redmond, WA 98052

Phone: 425-558-4224

Fax: 425-376-0596

E-mail: selman@nwccu.org

Web: www.nwccu.org

Recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, May 2001

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)

Commission on Colleges

James T. Rogers, Executive Director

1866 Southern Lane

Decatur, GA 30033

Phone: 404-679-4500

Fax: 404-679-4528

E-mail: jrogers@sacscoc.org

Web: www.sacscoc.org

Recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, January 2003

Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC-ACCJC)

Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges

Barbara A. Beno, Executive Director

10 Commercial Boulevard, Suite 204

Novato, CA 94949

Phone: 415-506-0234

Fax: 415-506-0238

E-mail: accjcbb@pacbell.net

Web: www.accjc.org

Recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, January 2003

Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC-ACSCU)

Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities

Ralph A. Wolff, Executive Director

985 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 100

Alameda, CA 94501

Phone: 510-748-9001

Fax: 510-748-9797

E-mail: rwolff@wascsenior.org

Web: www.wascweb.org

Recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, January 2003